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REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Wallerson during the personal interview of February 6, 2002.

During the course of the interview, the Examiner requested that Applicants' representative provide clarification regarding support in the originally filed application for the feature of selecting a processing method after the picture information is captured. The requested clarification is now provided.

On page 21, line 2, a description of the operation of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention begins with the sentence "Now assume that the shutter button S1 is pressed." The description then goes on to state that a picture signal fetched from CCD 2 is converted to a digital signal and, after compression, written into flash memory card 104. In other words, the picture information is captured.

Applicants' specification then goes on to state ways in which the captured picture is manipulated. For example, on page 21, lines 18-25, an explanation is provided regarding rotation of the captured picture. On page 22, first paragraph, an explanation is provided of displaying a captured picture and pressing a "person ordering specifying key" so that the picture will be printed as part of a print order. On page 24, lines 14-20, an explanation is provided regarding changing the frame color that is to be generated for a captured picture when the picture is printed. Thus, Applicants' specification gives three clear examples of specifying processing information of a previously captured picture. All of this information is disclosed as storable in flash memory card 104.

As previously argued, Saito neither discloses nor suggests the feature of specifying processing information after image capture. The Official Action has previously argued that Saito's compression specifying mechanism is analogous to Applicants' processing information. Even if this was correct (and Applicants' representative respectfully argues otherwise), Saito's specification states at column 4, line 53, that the first shutter stroke is for reading out appropriate control data (in which the specification of the selected form of compression is made) followed by a second stroke (at column 5, line 22) where the imaging device is clocked. Thus, as Applicants' claimed feature of specifying processing information after image capture is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art

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of record, Applicants' claims are patentable over Saito.

Regarding Lourette, during the interview, Applicants' representative argued that Applicants' claims include the feature of processing the picture information from the memory while the memory is separated from the camera. In response to this argument, during the interview, the Examiner referred to text which corresponds to Fig. 19 of Lourette. As shown in Fig. 19, however, the entire camera 10 must be physically connected to PC 232 in order for image information stored in the camera's memory to be downloaded to PC 232. Thus, Applicants' claimed feature of the processing information processed from the memory while the memory is separated from the camera is neither disclosed nor suggested by Lourette.

Finally, the Examiner requested that the restricted claims be cancelled. Those claims have indeed been cancelled.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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LEA/fp

Enclosure: Version with markings to show changes made

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9314) on the date shown below.

February 19, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 10-22 and 24-33.

Please add claims 40 and 41.